

B5 26. (amended) The combination set forth in claim 24 wherein at least each of said jaws has a plurality of outward extending tabs for gripping said upper portion of said closed bag or sack.

B6 28. (amended) In combination, a cart having at least one pair of wheels for transporting said cart and a closed bag or sack supporting carrier mounted on said cart for supporting an upper portion of a large closed bag or a sack containing quantities of loose and granular products, such as sand and trash on said cart, said closed bag or sack supporting carrier being releasable from said cart and having a pair of jaws for clamping and releasing said upper portion of said closed bag or sack from said carrier to carry.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application is requested. It is Applicants' position that the claims as now amended overcome all of the Examiner's references and that the application should be allowed because of the following reasons.

The principal reference, Harmon et al., for the 35 USC 102(b) rejection of claims 5-7, 10, 24, 25, 27 and 28, and Anderson et al. the principal reference for the 35 USC 103 rejection of claims 5-8, 10, 12-14, 20, 24, 25, 27, and 28, teach clamping upper portions of open bags or sacks for the purpose of adding materials to the bags or sacks. Applicants' invention is directed to clamping upper portions of closed bags or sacks for the purpose of supporting the bags or sacks while they are transported. Independent claims 5, 14, 24 and 28 have been amended to include this positive limitation.

Independent claim 14 is further distinguishable from the Prisinger reference by the positive limitation of a pivotable lower shelf which is selectably foldable from a vertical stored non-load

supporting position to a horizontal load supporting position.

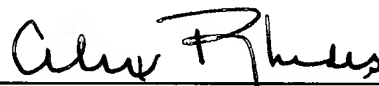
Claims 22, 23 and 26 are further distinguishable from the references by the positive limitation of outward extending tabs for gripping and supporting upper portions of closed bags or sacks. Williams, which is considered to be non-analogous art, teaches outward extending tabs for holding "large quantities of paper together without slipping or sliding" (Abstract and col. 1, lines 52-56).

Claim 22 which depends from claim 5 further includes the additional positive limitation of a thin metal strip having a plurality of outward extending tabs for forming a gripping surface. This feature is neither suggested nor obvious from the applied references.

Since the remaining claims depend from the above claims, for the same reasons as the above claims, they are patentably distinguishable from the references.

For the above reasons, favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully requested and that this case be passed for allowance. Although no further changes are believed necessary for allowance, should the Examiner feel differently, a telephone call from the Examiner would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Alex Rhodes, Reg. No. 26,797
Attorney for Applicants
30100 Telegraph Road, Suite 460
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
(248) 646-4400

Dated: September 22, 2000